

# The Poisonous Squash



There lived a young family with their parents. The daughter-in-law was very scared of her mother-in-law.



One day she cooked squash, but when she tasted it, she realized it was bitter. Now, she was worried about what would happen to her if her mother-in-law found out about it. She did not know what to do and how to dispose of it.



Right then, one Jain Sadhu Dharmruchi came to her house to ask for his alms. The daughter-in-law thought this was a good way to get rid of her bitter squash because the sadhus do not tell. So she poured all of it into his pot.



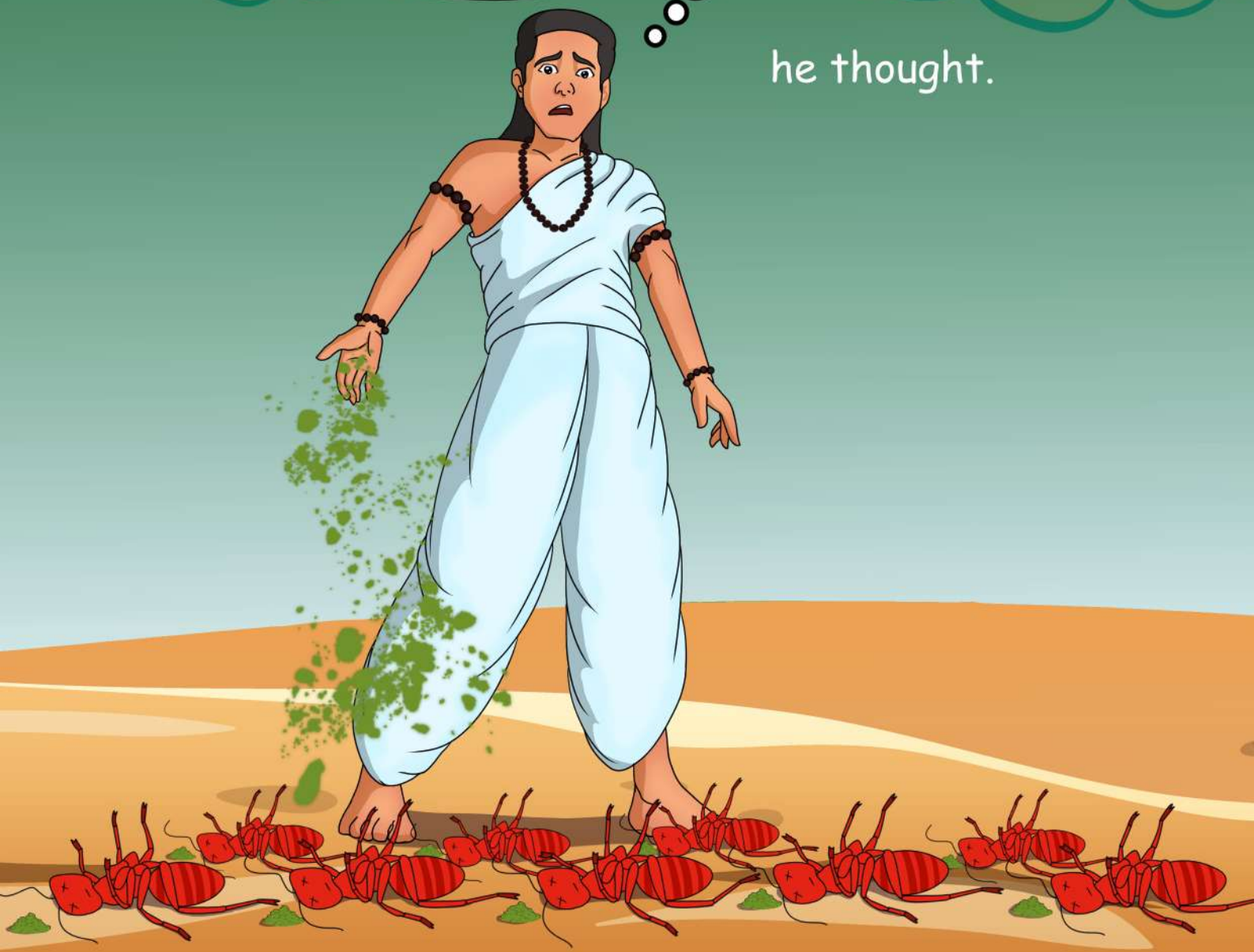
Sadhu Dharmruchi did not know this and took it back to his Upashraya, where he told him to get rid of it because it was poisonous.



The Sadhu went out to throw it away. As soon as its drop fell on the ground, a few ants came to eat it, and they died. This saddened the heart of the Sadhu. Wherever he tried to throw it, the ants would come to eat it and then die. The Sadhu Dharmruchi could not bear it anymore and did not want the living creatures to die.

"Where is the safest place to throw this squash so that no creature will die?"

he thought.



Suddenly he knew where to throw it. In his stomach. So, Sadhu Dharmruchi ate the bitter and poisonous squash, giving up his own life to save the ants and the other creatures.



We must take care of  
all creatures, no matter  
if they are big or small.

